

ENERGIZE Indiana

Transforming the Hoosier Economy

The 21st Century Research and Technology Fund

More development on the way as Energize Indiana expands 21st Century R & T Fund

Innovators with ideas and entrepreneurs with enterprise can get financial assistance to conduct their research through the 21st Century Research and Technology Fund, which was expanded under the Energize Indiana economic development plan passed by the General Assembly and signed into law May 8 by Governor Frank O'Bannon.

Under House Enrolled Act 1001, the fund will have \$37.5 million a year for awards in FY04 and FY05. That's up from the \$15 million that had been allocated for FY04.

The fund seeks to diversify Indiana's economy by encouraging development and commercialization of advanced technologies. It emphasizes the creation of academic-commercial partnerships to promote research and stimulate its transfer into marketable products, and it favors projects that can bring in money from other sources, including the federal government. Awards are made in three broad categories: 1) science and technology commercialization; 2) centers of excellence; and 3) entrepreneurial activities.

A new round of awards – the fifth since the fund was created in 1999 – is scheduled for this year. A request for proposals is likely to be issued this summer. Applicants will have several months to write their proposals, which likely will be sent in the fall to peer reviewers: science and technology researchers and commercialization experts from around the country. The review panel is expected to meet late this year. The fund's board will review the panel's recommendations and the approved list of awards will be announced and sent to the State Budget Committee for its review in December.

Fund has moved Indiana into the 21st Century

The 21st Century Research and Technology Fund, in just its fourth year of existence, has already funded research in a wide variety of disciplines. Through four rounds of review, the fund has made 64 awards and committed nearly \$80 million to projects in a variety of high-tech fields, including bioengineering; life sciences; pharmaceutical science; agriculture; advanced manufacturing; and information technology. Among other things, the 21st Century fund has ensured that research is being done in Indiana in the areas of orthopedic nanotechnology; space experimentation; early detection of tooth cavities; implants; organ and tissue regeneration; cancer cures; new steel mill technologies; and

Some awards support new technologies or Indiana, providing a competitive advantage research and development funds. Others excellence in technologies critical to the awards go to academic-commercial partner-of research will be commercialized.

Contacts:

Anthony T. Armstrong, director
317-233-4332
tarmstrong@21fund.org

Jennifer Mauro,
executive assistant
317-234-1624
jmauro@21fund.org

create essential new technical infrastructure in to Indiana researchers in attracting federal enable the establishment of centers of growth of Indiana's high-tech sector. Many of the ships, enhancing the chances that the products

In addition to numerous disciplines, applicants for grants also have come from all across the state and from both public and private institutions of higher education.

Three case studies:

A Trojan horse for cancer...

Endocyte Inc. teamed with Purdue University to develop a treatment that uses a vitamin as a "Trojan horse" to deliver anticancer agents by tricking cancer cells into ingesting them.

Support from the 21st Century fund enabled the researchers to attract more venture-capital backing. The work has shown promise in tests in mice and may soon move to human testing.

Collaborative breakthrough...

Researchers from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University School of Medicine and Purdue University have collaborated with Zimmer Inc., a world leader in orthopedic implants, to develop a minimally invasive procedure that is expected to greatly increase the chances of success and reduce rehabilitation time.

The work was made possible by a 21st Century grant.

Fighting cavities...

Dr. George Stookey, distinguished professor emeritus at the Indiana University School of Dentistry, received a 21st Century grant to explore and refine a Dutch laser technology to detect cavities much earlier than it now can be done.

Stookey obtained additional grants to conduct his research and has established a company to bring the technology to market.

For more information... www.21fund.org